

"A is for Apple" Initiative 2013

We all know children learn best when they are engaged. Combining an educational apple lesson while inviting your students to see, smell and taste apples and apple products will be a lesson that will resonate with them for years. At the same time you are teaching your students about making wise and healthy food choices, why not educate them about Iowa's rich apple history and share with them the benefits of shopping local and supporting local Iowa farmers?

This year's A is for Apple Initiative gives you the opportunity to integrate all of these valuable lessons. Since 2008 we have offered A is for Apple to classroom teachers. Each year the incentives change along with the availability of local apples. This year, apples are abundant and we would like to capitalize on this bounty and give you the opportunity to go to your local orchard and find not only local apples but apple products as well. What better time to talk about pollination and the benefit of bees than as part of that lesson? In addition to picking an item for your classroom, we will give you the opportunity to purchase honey or other products to add to your lesson.

Incentives for you: (teachers/students)

- **Provide your students with fresh-picked local apples**
- **Encourage healthy eating habits**
- **Establish connections with local apple growers**
- **Provide students with fun, interactive game or books**
- **Provide students with opportunities to try other great apple-related products**



Participation Rules:

Those **teachers** who wish to participate in the "A is for Apple" Initiative **must agree to procure apples and apple based or related products from a local Iowa orchard for your students. \$50 will be awarded to selected recipients. Because class size and prices may vary, if after procuring apples, you have funds remaining you may purchase additional apples or other apple related items from the orchard (such as honey or apple cider).** Priority will be given to teachers that will serve apples in conjunction with an educational lesson. An invoice of the purchase will need to be submitted along with a Performance Report (which will be provided under separate cover to the selected schools). Any unused funds will need to be returned to IDALS.

To participate in the "A is for Apple" Initiative, please complete the attached form and return to us as soon as possible. **All participation forms must be completed and submitted by September 13, 2013.** This initiative is open to all grades. Awards will be made up to 40 applicants, and may be limited to no more than 3 teachers per school. To accommodate the age discrepancies, please select the item that best fits your classroom. There will be a select number of each item; an attempt will be made to accommodate requests and will be based on date order. Award notifications will be made by September 18th. Please be aware that the payment must be issued to a school or organization and the W9 form must be completed accordingly. Thank you for your time and your interest in this initiative.

If you have any questions regarding this initiative or the Farm to School Program contact:

- **Tammy Stotts by phone, 515-281-7657, or email: tammy.stotts@iowaagriculture.gov**

